

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RATHDRUM**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	21
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	11	29
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	4	6
TOTAL MARK	300	160	177

Rathdrum, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator was extremely disappointed not to receive more detail than your 1 page entry. This suggests a lack of co-ordinated effort in the town. A requirement of the competition is to submit a 3 to 5 year development plan outlining your priorities and work programmes. The adjudicator refers you to the comments made in last years report and suggests that you make contact with the Tidy Towns unit of the Department for assistance in completing this for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Rathdrum has a number of fine buildings. Avonbrae Guesthouse was well presented as was the Church and its surrounding landscaped grounds. The new car park was also noted. but continued improvements are needed here in terms of tidiness. Macadam's was well presented with good use of flowers, Jacob's Well has a good quality traditional new shop front. At Commerfords, try to replace the sign. Cullen's Centra and the Post Office were all freshly painted as was TM McGrath. At St. Saviours National School, try to paint the wall. Garda Station was well maintained as was the Train Station Platform. Within the car park of the train station, try to paint the protruding porch at the old house. Also the car park area could be somewhat better presented. Good use of flowers was noted at McNabbs. Cartoon Inn was well presented and the Railway Bar had been painted. Hospital grounds deserve a particular mention for its a very attractive and relaxing setting. Community College was very well presented, however the area opposite continues to be very untidy. Bank of Ireland was also well presented as was the Pharmacy. Overall there is evidence of good efforts being made but continued improvements are possible. Some premises make good use of flowers to enhance the narrowness of the main street.

LANDSCAPING

The rose bed is well presented this year; however it is not as good as last year with the Tour de France passing through. Overgrowth is evident which suggests a need for better maintenance. Parnell Memorial Park had an excellent presentation again this year and is a beautiful landscaped area, very well maintained. Those responsible deserve particular credit. Trees appear to be maturing well on the fair green. In general, you have some good landscaped areas which obviously require a lot of work. Please ensure that these are well maintained, before you consider embarking on any additional landscaping.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ballygannon Forest is a very imported amenity. It was good to see that no litter was evident here. Its also encouraging to see within Parnell Memorial Park that you have incorporated aspects that will encourage wildlife such as the Ducks in the pond.

TIDINESS

Dead weeds were noted on the foot path outside the Hostel and on the kerbing by Fairgreen which took from the overall appearance. The Failte sign on the approach road from Laragh could also be cleaned. Try to remove weeds at base of cemetery wall and repair this wall if possible. Replace also the Dublin / Rathdrum sign on the approach from Avoca. Weeds were noted along by the footpath on the ring road. At the base of the hill the 30 mile an hour sign had been replaced. Why not the other sign? Recycling bins were noted in the new car park. Try to continue with undergrounding new wiring in other parts of the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was noted in a number of areas for example, outside the Eastern Health Board, outside the Wise Owl, Murphy's as well as Cahills. Dumping was noted in the carpark by the railway station and on the road way leading down to it, which was very untidy with walls falling down and weeds. The road way by Mileys pub was particularly untidy with both weeds and litter. Litter was also quite bad in Parnell Park and also very bad outside Flemings. Considerable efforts are needed to overcome this problem. An education programme is an essential part of this. Try to include school children as well.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Parnell Park is somewhat improved, but litter was very bad. More litter bins are needed. Corballis is very good and very attractive but the entrance could be improved. Generally good individual efforts were noted in many premises throughout the town and on the approach roads.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Laragh was neat and tidy with verges cut on both sides. The area around the junction by Avon Motors was also very good, well done. Approaching from Avoca, verges had been cut on both sides also. However there was a need to cut at the base around the signs. Some litter was noted on the foot path on the left hand side. Weeds were noted at the foot path by the bridge, which was

also very untidy, also replace the Wexford sign here, moving up the hill towards the main street, the flower beds were very nice features but weeds along kerbs tend to take from this. Glenmalure junction was also untidy with the rough cutting of grass noted on this approach road up by the hospital. The road leading to Fairgreen from the main street was also quite bad with weeds evident.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Some individual commercial premises in Rathdrum are particularly making an effort and there is also evidence of good residential efforts combined with maintenance of areas such as the Fairgreen. Having said that the adjudicator feels that given the potential for Rathdrum to improve more commitment by the residents and other interests in the town is needed to get to grips with the problems identified. Rathdrum should be a neat, attractive and tidy and welcoming village. The adjudicator earnestly hopes that the committee might seek help from both the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the Local Authorities in terms of how you can tackle some of the issues. For example, Local Authorities are now required to prepare litter management plans every 3 years. Consult with Wicklow County Council in relation to what their plans are for Rathdrum. Approach the Department on how you can prepare an overall plan for your Tidy Towns effort. Try to work with local organisations who may be able to assist you in bringing residents and commercial interests together to promote your Tidy Town efforts.